(3) Development of Mushroom.

(4) Plastics in Agriculture.

(5) Promotion of Bee-keeping.

(6) Programmes of National Horticulture Board for Post Harvest Management.

(7) Human Resource Development for Horticulture.

Besides the above, to provide focused attention to horticulture in hills, scheme on "Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/ Hilly areas" has been approved and is being implemented in six districts of 6 states. Almora district of Uttar Pradesh is included in the scheme. The scheme is being implemented by state desginated agency for integrated development of horticulture including establishment of alternate marketing system.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Drought in Madhya Pradesh

†1514. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a memorandum to the centre with regard to severe drought prevailing in the State;

(b) if so, the district-wise aid sought by the State Government from the Centre;

(c) whether the Centre has released the district-wise amount to the State Government to tide over the drought situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government had sought a total assistance of Rs. 361.61 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR).

(c) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) Does not arise.

Cotton Yield

1515. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world average of cotton yield is well over 550 kgs. per hectare whereas in India, it is around 266 kgs. per hectare; and

(b) what action Government are going to take to increase the yield of cotton in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the yield of cotton in the country, the Government of India has recently approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission of Cotton. Under the Mission, the existing Intensive Cotton Development Programme has been modified to increase the yield of cotton in the country. Assistance will be provided for the transfer of technology through field demonstration, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration and training of farmers and extension workers. Besides, assistance is given for the use of critical inputs such as delinted seeds of newer varieties, sprayers, pheromone traps, bioagents, sprinkler/drip irrigation system etc.

Cold Storages in States

†1516. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to construct cold-storages of 5000 ton capacity in the country;

(b) if so, what is the detailed outline of the scheme;

(c) whether States have been identified for constructing said coldstorages; and

(d) if so, the names of such States alongwith the capacity of these cold storages decided to be set up?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.